

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

No. 147

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The Louisville Convention

In attendance, character of program and interest manifested by the canners and allied organizations, the Nineteenth Annual Convention of the National Canners Association, held in Louisville the week of January 25, was one of the best in the history of the Association. Important subjects upon which the Convention took action, through the adoption of appropriate resolutions were: The continuance of Canned Foods Week, the import duty on canned tomatoes, extension of the Federal Warehousing Act to cover products of the canning industry, approval of the plant quarantine laws and of the work of the Federal Horticultural Board in their enforcement, and improvement of methods of labeling canned foods.

In adopting a resolution that Canned Foods Week be continued the Convention urged that each canner do his utmost to carry forward the work, both by contributions to the fund and by personal work, and the appreciation of the Association was expressed to the Chairman of the Canned Foods Week Committee, Mr. Royal F. Clark, and his associates, Mr. James A. Anderson and Mr. James Moore, for their untiring service, and to the allied organizations and retail grocers in the country for their splendid support, unselfishly and powerfully rendered.

In view of the enormous increase in the imports of Italian canned tomatoes and the menace that these imports constitute to the canning industry of the United States, Congress was urged to restore the former import duty of 40 per cent ad valorem, and a committee of the Association was authorized to request the United States Tariff Commission to institute the necessary proceeding looking to an immediate increase of the duty on canned tomatoes under the provisions of the flexible tariff.

In another resolution the Convention expressed the favorable impression created by the address on warehousing presented by Mr. H. S. Yohe, official in charge of the administration of the U. S. Warehousing Act, and requested the Administrative Council of the Association to make a prompt investigation into the possibilities of improving the condition of the canning industry through the Federal Warehousing law. Power was delegated to the Administrative Council to take such action as might be appropriate.

Because the Federal Plant Quarantine laws as administered by the Federal Horticultural Board, have been of inestimable value by preventing entrance into this country of various insect plant diseases which would cause untold losses to canners and growers of fruit and vegetable crops, the Convention endorsed these laws and the work of the Horticultural Board, and expressed its opposition to any modification of the laws that would, in any way, diminish the protection they afford to American agriculture.

The Convention went on record as recommending to its membership and to the industry at large, the most careful attention to the labeling of canned foods so that the true contents of the can may be described, and authorized the Association in the discretion of its directing officials to invite the National Wholesale Grocers Association, the American Wholesale Grocers Association and the Chain Store Grocers Association to appoint committees to confer with a similar committee of the National Canners Association to work out this problem.

The Convention tendered its earnest thanks to the officers and directors of the American Can Company for the company's munificent gift of a three-story building with equipment, in San Francisco, to be used as a research laboratory, and urged all members, particularly those in the Pacific Coast and Inter-mountain states, and in the Hawaiian Islands, to make the most extensive use of these facilities.

Resolutions were also adopted expressing the thanks of the Convention to the various speakers who addressed the general sessions and section meetings, to the people of Louisville for their hospitality, to the Louisville Girls' High School Glee Club for their music, to the Canning Machinery and Supplies Association for entertainment features provided, to the American Can Company for its theater party, to the press and to others who contributed to the success and enjoyment of the Convention.

Authority to fix the place where the next Convention shall be held was delegated to the presidents of the National Canners Association and the allied organizations.

The report of the Conference Committee submitted by Chairman Royal F. Clark to the general session on Friday morning presented the following recommendations:

Recommend in the interests of the reputation of the industry (1) that abnormal cans of food should not be sold to the consumer in any form, (2) that canners should be urged to carefully examine all shipments with the view to eliminating all questionable or abnormal cans, (3) that the distributors advise retailers not to offer abnormal cans of food for sale and that ways and means for advising retailers on the subject be made a matter of future conference.

Recommend that more and better paste be used on labels to the end that a more attractive package may be offered the public.

Recommend that original invoices be not attached to the draft and bill of lading but be mailed direct to buyers; that a copy be attached in case buyer so desires.

Reaffirm Bulletin Number 47 and recommend that traffic committees take up with the railroads the proper classification of paper containers.

Unanimously and heartily endorse Canned Foods Week and recommend its continuance during 1926.

At the Monday evening session officers and directors of the Association were elected, and the various sections elected their officers at meetings held on the following days. A complete roster of the officers and of the standing committees of the Association for the year 1926 follows:

Officers

President: ELMER E. CHASE, San Jose, Cal.

First Vice-President: HARRY L. CANNON, Bridgeville, Del.

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Canned Food Exports in 1925

Increases in the exports of canned meats, fruits, vegetables and sardines and decreases in canned milk and salmon are shown by the figures for the calendar year 1925 issued by the Department of Commerce. A summary of these statistics follows:

	1924	1925
	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
Meats, total	15,895,879	16,889,556
Beef	1,449,632	2,173,658
Sausage	3,531,604	3,773,195
Milk, total	206,279,858	147,762,615
Condensed	64,025,449	42,706,699
Evaporated	142,254,309	105,055,916
Fruit, total	224,312,848	263,360,075
Apricots	37,202,527	33,403,136
Peaches	65,851,366	84,749,086
Pears	59,122,987	69,457,983
Pineapple	28,501,951	36,267,834
Salmon	67,013,369	53,293,716
Sardines	51,260,836	62,754,826
Vegetables	49,984,841	55,360,564

Record of Year's Work of the Association

With this issue of the Information Letter is mailed a copy of the pamphlet containing the Annual Address by President E. F. Trego at the Convention in Louisville, and the report of the Secretary and Treasurer.

Freight Rates

New individual and joint rates and charges proposed by carriers on shipments of tin cans from Virginia to Louisville and Louisville & Nashville Railroad stations in Alabama and Florida have been suspended by the Interstate Commerce Commission until May 25, 1926, and a hearing on the proceeding has been assigned for February 12 at Roanoke, Virginia, before Examiner Fuller.

In view of the fact that the carriers have withdrawn and cancelled their schedules proposing changes in the rates and regulations on shipments of canned foods, dried peas, etc., from Wisconsin to Owensboro, Kentucky, the Interstate Commerce Commission has set aside its order of November 19, 1925, suspending these schedules and has discontinued the proceedings in this case.

In a tentative report to the Interstate Commerce Commission, Examiner Smith finds that the rate charged on a carload of canned vegetables, in tin and glass, from Albion, New York, to Jacksonville, Florida, is not unreasonable or otherwise unlawful and recommends dismissal of the complaint. The shipment was routed over the New York Central and Pennsylvania to Baltimore and the Merchants and Miners Transportation Company beyond; charges were collected at the applicable combination rate of 62.5 cents per 100 pounds. Complainant contended for a rate of 57 cents on the ground, apparently, that the rate from Albion to Jacksonville should not exceed the commodity rate applicable on this traffic from Brocton, Fredonia, Ripley, and Westfield via Baltimore to Savannah.

A new complaint (Docket No. 17906) has been filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission on behalf of the National Canners Association, the Evaporated Milk Association and the Wisconsin Canners Association, attacking the rates on canned foods, including canned milk, in carloads, from Wisconsin canning points to New York and other eastern points.

The 1925 Tomato Pack

According to the annual statistics compiled by the Association, and mailed on February 2 to the membership, the pack of canned tomatoes in 1925, expressed in terms of No. 3 cans, was 19,770,000 cases. The pack in 1924, as reported by the Association, was 12,519,000 cases and in 1923 it was 14,672,000 cases.